

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed February 11, 2009. Claims 17-20, 22, and 24-30 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-20, 22, and 24-30. The present Reply cancels claims 17-20 and 30, and adds claims 31-35. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections – Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 17-20, 22, and 24-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Spiridonov* (U.S. Patent No. 3,903,704). Applicant requests cancellation of claims 17-20 and 30 for reasons unrelated to the present rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 22 and 24-29.

The Examiner writes that “*Spiridonov* shows a spring end where a spring (24) is enclosed in a cylinder (22); an adjusting unit (26) attaches to the rod (27); the adjusting unit can be moved to different parts of the spring (Figures 6-8) to have different spring forces.”

Applicant disagrees with the interpretation of the art. FIGS. 6-8 of *Spiridonov* do not show an adjusting unit that can be moved to different parts of the spring to have different spring forces. The adjustment unit (26) attaches a piston rod (27) to the piston (25). *Spiridonov* does not describe adjusting the position of the piston (25) relative to the spring (32). Instead, *Spiridonov* shows three different embodiments in FIGS. 6, 7 and 8. The piston (25) of the FIG. 6 embodiment is set at one extreme of a spring and is pulled down against the spring so as to be usable as tension-type resilient connecting means. The piston (25) of the FIG. 7 embodiment is set at the opposite extreme of the spring and is pushed up against the spring so as to be usable as compression-type resilient connecting means. The piston (25) of the FIG. 8 embodiment is set between two different springs (32) (“but has two springs 32 located one on each side of the piston 33”) and acts as both tension-type resilient connecting means against one of the springs and compression-type resilient connecting means against the other of the springs. There is no way to go from the connecting means of FIG. 6 to the connecting means of FIG. 7 or 8, or to go from FIG. 7 to FIG. 6 or 8. The piston is not adjustable along the spring and the spring force of each individual spring is not adjustable in any description or figure of *Spiridonov*.

Relative to the claims, *Spiridonov* does not disclose, teach or suggest an end plug with a thread or groove that is adapted to be mounted onto the spring wherein a counter force applied by the spring in response to the load is adjustable by repositioning the end plug along the spring. *Spiridonov* does not describe “a thread described on” the piston, and *Spiridonov* does not describe adjusting “a counter force applied by the spring” by repositioning the piston. The piston is a block that compresses the entire spring.

Further, nowhere does *Spiridonov* disclose, teach or suggest “a pulley including an input groove and an

output groove” as recited in claim 22, or “a dual pulley rotatable at a shaft” as recited in claim 24.

Because *Spiridonov* fails to disclose all of the features of claim 22 and 24, *Spiridonov* cannot anticipate claims 22 and 24 under 35 USC 102(b). Dependent claims have at least the features of the independent claims from which they depend; therefore, *Spiridonov* cannot anticipate claims 25-29 (which depend from claim 22) under 35 USC 102(b).

Newly Added Claims

Newly added claims 31-35 are, it is submitted, allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

If fees other than those submitted herewith are found to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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